GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1643
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2003
EASE OF GOVERNMENT CONTROL ON ONGC
SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ONGC is planning a Non-Government joint venture to free itself from the Government control, as reported in Indian Express, dated February 10, 2003 ;

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor;

(c) whether ONGC and other Private Companies have been given a go ahead by the Government to set up retail outlets for petrol and diesel ?

(d) if so, the details and reasons thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure safety, environmental concerns vis-Ã -vis setting up of retail outlets?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLUEM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) & (b): In view of the recent policy changes in the hydrocarbon sector, Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), a Navratna Public Sector Undertaking in the upstream hydrocarbon sector, intends to expand its business through value chain integration encompassing refining and marketing sectors also, so that it can effectively face market competition. In this scenario, examination of various options by the management of ONGC, for efficient structure and to seize emerging business opportunities, has been a continuous process. ONGC has informed that their Board of Directors has not taken any decision on formation of the said Non-Government joint venture, as of now.

(c) to (e): Government have allowed Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL), M/ Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and M/s Essar Oil Limited (EOL) for setting up Retail outlets as per the guidelines laid down by Government vide its resolution dated 8th March 2002. All the companies are required to follow statutory conditions prescribed by various agencies for setting up of retail outlets.